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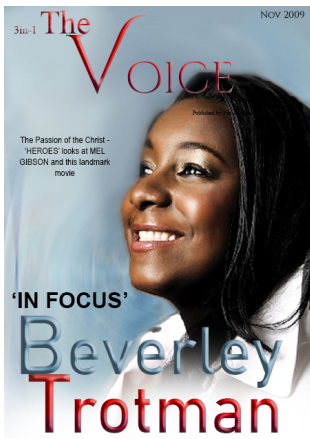
Published by 3-in-1

The Passion of the Christ -
'HEROES' looks at MEL
GIBSON and this landmark
movie

'IN FOCUS'

Beverley
Trotman

3-in-1 THE **Voice**



ON THE COVER Beverley Trotman
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editor's letter



MELANIA C
Editor-in-Chief

Hello again and welcome to a special 3-in-1 The Voice. This month we celebrate two of our contributors/editors' birthdays – Karin McBride-Chenoweth & Lianne, UK – birthday blessings to you both.

We also celebrate with a new look logo for 2011 – we love it and we hope you love it too...

IN FOCUS will feature AL GIBSON from GOD TV.

Part 1 will focus on Al's first book on the biography of Dr Des Sinclair previously featured here and Part 2 in our next issue will feature Al's in-depth interview on the Scribal Anointing and how he got started in publishing.

Many blessings!!

And remember:

'For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:24

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PIGRIM'S PROGRESS

David Chenoweth



THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Happy New Year to all; As this New Year gets under way I want to thank you for your continued support of Pilgrims Progress in reading this section. In the life of Jesus He ministered to large numbers of both the common man and His disciples. Jesus ministered in a variety of settings, weather, and landscapes; also feeding His sheep both in Spirit and food. The Parables stretch over the first three chapters of the Bible; Matthew, Mark and Luke. There are a total of thirty Parables' in the Bible and some have brought major divisions in the Body of Christ starting at the time Jesus delivered them. Many Parable's are very famous and can be remembered easy while others are somewhat less significant and the average person does not know of their existence.

The Pearl of Great Price is one of the most unknown ones in the Bible; it is short and could be easily bypassed in finding. It is the sixth Parable Jesus gave and was given to His disciples. It is only two verses long and can be located in Matthew 13: 45-46. It is also the middle of three Parables' that I call the Kingdom of Heaven series as it relates to finding the Kingdom and what man can do with what he finds with it. These three Parables' were addressing only His disciples.

Some people I have spoken to lately struggle with just what is the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven in my mind is what you choose to make of the circumstances and life you lead. We in our fallen state have to live sometimes with two feet in different worlds. This can be a tough situation depending on where you are with your walk with Jesus. A question is presented in this Parable that should be asked to everyone that follows the Lord. What pearls are you seeking? Matthew 13:22 reminds us not to let the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word. Pearls in this context are a collection of seeking the Kingdom in all areas or going to large extensive searches to secure the best that can be found in the Kingdom. What do you seek after in looking for your pearls? From my own experience I seek after the finest that the Lord has. Do you seek the highest quality of Godliness in your life? There is an old time saying I used to use "Sold out to Jesus ". Are you willing after finding the Pearl the Lord has for you; are willing to put all you process into it? Are you willing to sell everything for it? People get very concerned about the lack of in their life; we must get to the point of trust in the Lord and relieve ourselves from its anxiety. Matthew 6: 25-34 Jesus sheds light on what we as believers must seek in our everyday lives. The threads between the two passages of scripture of Matthew 6 and the Parable here are amazing,

Dave

Matthew 13: 23- *And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.*



Messianic Moment

By
Dr Howard Morgan



Beloved,

We are living in times of great challenges and many changes that we will all be facing in the future. An important question we must be asking now is, "How do we prepare for these challenges and changes?" I would like to share some thoughts about that preparation.

One foundational truth we must understand is that everything that happens to us, and indeed ultimately everything that happens in the world, is under the sovereignty of God. The Bible refers to God as Lord and

KING because He is the **final authority** and always has the **last word**. Understanding the sovereignty of God can give us a great sense of comfort if we learn how to *"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and not lean upon your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways, then He will direct your paths."* (Prov. 3:5-6)

Two things stand out for me in this verse: **trust** with your heart and **don't trust** your understanding. Because

we often fail to *understand* the reasons *why* certain things happen or don't happen, we can fall into the spiritual

trap of allowing our hearts to harden toward the Lord. Many have fallen prey to the devil's accusations about the character and love of God because they could not reconcile the goodness of a loving all powerful God and the pain, wickedness or evil that befell them or others. Their hearts harden, they stop trusting the Lord and turn

away from loving Him.

God surely tests our hearts through our sufferings. But if we learn how to **process our pain** and offer God our lives in a deeper and more profound way precisely because of our suffering, we will find ourselves united with

God in a way that is so utterly different than anything we have experienced before. Words will fail to describe

it. Isaiah 40:31, teaches us that they who *"wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* **The Hebrew word (kav'ah - קוּוָה) translated as 'wait' is better translated as 'bind together.'** So the real sense of this verse is

that those who are bound together with the Lord, united with Him, tied tightly to Him, or even 'twisted together' like the fringes on the Tallit (Jewish prayer shawl) will be renewed in their strength. What a wonderful

word picture. Let your life be so joined to the Lord, so united to Him, that you will be able to mount up like an eagle and rise far above all of you earthly situations and receive new strength so you can walk through your circumstances and never become weary or discouraged. **You can keep trusting even when you don't**

understand. Amen and Amen!!

The Bible says that Jesus Himself *"learned obedience through His suffering"* (Heb.5:8) and as a result of this process of "learning obedience," He overcame His suffering and *"received a name that is above every name."*

He is now the *"source of eternal salvation to those who obey Him,"* and eventually *"every knee will bow and declare that Messiah Jesus is Lord."* (Phil. 2:11).

Just as Jesus was rewarded for His obedience, so the scripture promises us a reward. In Rev. 3:21, Jesus declares to us that if we overcome, as He overcame, then we *"will sit on His throne with Him, even as He sits on*

the throne with the Father." I do not think we can really fathom what this means. Paul writes in 1 Cor. 2:9, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"* (NIV).

The reward for our obedience is beyond our ability to conceive.

One of the ways that I have learned obedience is, as I have *died to myself* and surrendered more and more of my

heart and my will to God, I have received an ever deepening relationship with Him. This process is really the

heart of what is called **Discipleship** and it is highly prized by the Lord. **The reason it is so highly prized is**

because at the end of this process, you are a mature person who God can entrust with authority in His

Kingdom and responsibility over His possessions.

Jesus made this very clear in His parables of the talents

(Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27), and also in His promise that the “overcomers” will sit on His throne with Him. Paul also referred to this in Romans 8:17 and 2 Tim. 2:12, where He spoke of the Lord’s promise that those who are faithful and obedient will reign with Him.

With this in mind, we should look at each and every situation from a *kingdom/discipleship* perspective. We should ask ourselves this question: “**What is the lesson I am to learn through this?**” We should then ask the

Holy Spirit to reveal to us what the Lord wants us to learn and how we should be reacting and responding. Then

we can learn, change and grow as disciples whom the King can entrust with His possessions and His authority to rule and reign with Him.

Remember that learning obedience through suffering is a lifelong process, **so please be patient and forgiving toward yourself and others.**

As part of the process of *learning obedience* we have to learn how to *magnify the Lord*. In our *flesh* we tend to only see and talk about the negative and *magnify* those things. Listen to what people talk about and how they talk about those things. Their conversations *magnify* what they are thinking about and make it *bigger and bigger*. As a spiritual discipline we must *magnify the Lord* by talking about Him and His goodness and His mercy and His loving kindness. When you do this, you will discover that your inner life is strengthened, your faith is built up and you generally feel encouraged.

It is extremely important to have fellowship in the spirit and in the light with other believers. We truly need each other, but you must manage those relationships and those conversations. Do not let them go in directions

that are not *in the spirit* or *in the light* and are therefore not *edifying* (i.e. they do not correct, instruct or encourage you). **You must take charge of what you hear and what you say.**

You must both *guard* and *garden* your heart by not letting people put *toxic* words into your ears. And if you do

hear them, do not let those poisonous words get into your thoughts or influence your feelings. Do not allow *toxic* thoughts to be created in your own mind; cast them out! If you have not yet cast them out, do not let them

take root. If they have already taken root, then pull them out like weeds.

One of the ways we do this is by “*casting down every vain imagination*” and “*making every thought obey Christ*” (2Cor.10:5, my paraphrase). Those vain imaginations are the pictures in your mind that create negative

feelings in your soul and can even create negative effects in your body. Remember this, “*As a person thinks in*

their heart, so they will be.” (Prov. 23:7) If you think good thoughts, you will have good feelings. If you think bad thoughts, you will have bad feelings. If you practice this, you will find that it works!

The Holy Spirit has been given to enable you to overcome everything you face. Trust Him to do that. Stay

in worship, in the word and in prayer, and watch God work!!

The promise of God is sure, “He who has begun a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6). He started His work in you, and He will bring it to completion.

Amen!

May you continue to grow in the love and deepen in your knowledge of God.

Howard and Janet Morgan

If you would like further teaching on these subjects, there are several CDs I recommend.

The albums CDA 232 – Your Pain and God’s Purposes and CDA 243 – Guard Your Heart.

Also two excellent single messages, CDS 20 – Praying From Your Place of Pain and CDS 34 – Pursuing Purity, Processing Pain and Possessing Power. You can read about them and order them on our website, HMMin.com





Welcome to CONNECT our new online Youth E-zine section. CONNECT will be maintained by local youth worker Robyn Brooks from Northern Ireland.

Welcome to love month, its everywhere flowers, chocolates, cards anything to make that certain someone feel special and loved, how many cards are you expecting this year are you hoping that there will be a huge bunch of roses delivered to school or work, or will you be whisked off to the most romantic spot by the one who you love for the memory of a life time? It makes me wonder why we keep all our affection for February 14th when roses die the one who you loved with all your heart last year you can barley think of their name or maybe you just are not expecting anything at all cause you don't believe you are loved by any one well no matter where you are today I want you to know something so exiting something that if your really take the time to think about it could change your whole life and the way you will look at February 14th forever!

It's known as the fathers love letter it's taken right from his words from the start to the end of the bible and no matter what your relationship is with your dad on the earth your Dad in haven wants' you to know some very important truths about him and about what he made love to be and how much he loves just you for who you are. Take the time to read it know that your Father your Dad in heaven wrote it to you and listen to what he's telling you!

He knows that you might not know him the way you would like to because he knows everything about you, when you look in the mirror tonight when you are brushing your hair remember he knows every follicle and you are perfect because you are made in his perfect image, He knows being a Christian is hard that the world doesn't know him and they try and tell you who he is but keep having faith and he will show himself to you in ways you couldn't think of he wants to shower you with is love to give you

more than you could ever believe possible, how amazing is it that the one that put every star in the sky is saying this to you think about every word as you read on.

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalms 139:17-18And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvellous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires.
Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than
you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I
am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians
2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all
your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are
broken hearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As
a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close
to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away
every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on
this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and
I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John
17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.
John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my
being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I
am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to
tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2
Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I
could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His
death was the ultimate expression of my love for
you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I
might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you
receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1
John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from
my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll
throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen.
Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will
always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question
is...Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting
for you. Luke 15:11-32 Love, Your Dad Almighty
God

So your Dad has wrote the letter to you and you
probably now have more questions than you
started with so this is where you need to get brave
and go talk to your Church youth worker ask them
all those things you need to know, but don't be
surprised if they tell you they will have to find out
for you (we are human after all) remember he is
your Dad and he wants you to get to know him so
take some time read your bible talk to him and if
you do get roses or chocolates this year know you
are loved so much more buy the creator God J

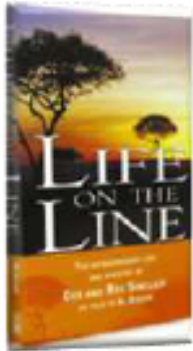
The Poetry of Jenny Grant

Stillness, Brings His Voice

Stillness, knowing grace abounds,
Such a sound to hear his call,
Taking ground,
Listening to his heart, the heartbeat that
makes the race,
Traced in his likeness, royal regalia,
Tapers his tongue,
Spooled his crescendo,
Coolness makes his breath, unlimited,
Silence, righteousness makes his voice,
Chosen outside the ozone,
From the foundation of time,
Calls my name, your mine,
Resounding all around my ears,
Heavens calling, his salt fills my ears,
Harkening to his spiritual tools,
Sword of life,
Promises of great ardour,
From his larder,
Loves feast, his fruits, for-everlasting,
Every word a crisp ignition, flames to
prosper,
Knowing, his love all significance,
Purposes his power,
Pools of pearls,
Teaches fools, confounding his wisdom,
His tools, Laying all in the flawless motion,
His ocean expels his reign, his life,
Excels his excellence,
Waiting, as the jewellers best,
His quest, the silence resonating an open
ear,
Paired, by his marvel, togetherness,
Whip's his ways,
Thickness of majesty, ripe upon my tongue,
Holds his language, sweet honey,
Held in his chamber, the sweet reward,
Knowing, stillness he who is knowing,
Expels his love.

In Focus

AL GIBSON



Book Review

Title: 'Life on the Line'
Author: Al Gibson
Publisher: Monarch Books

Reviewed by MD Henderson

Foreword: Peter Whitcome, Snr Pastor 'Jesus First', Auckland NZ

This book is a true testimony of what Evangelism is all about and it shows you early on in the book how Des Sinclair was firstly imprisoned and then miraculously released from prison. In an extraordinary series of events brilliantly written you are taken on a journey. The author somehow has the ability to create pictures in your mind making you feel you are actually part of the story...

This man Des Sinclair has been through persecution and physical trauma because of extraordinary forces working against him; and it soon becomes very clear that equally there is another extraordinary force working in his life and rescuing him from these situations.



Al Gibson - Author

To the non-believer you will not be left in any doubt that God's perfect grace and love conquers all.

This book is so empowering that I was filled with the Holy Spirit whilst turning the pages! You find it hard to put down and return to menial tasks, because there is an urgency to know what happens next...The book itself is very easy to read and chapters are interestingly opened with either sub-titles or scripture.

In conclusion this spirit-filled book opens your mind and touches your heart to what really is going on in Des & Ros's walk in the world of Evangelism. As the enemy comes in the Lord

time after time lifts up His standard against him, and gives the reader a deeper meaning of God's love and protection, and how His plans and His Will for his children will stand even through all the hardships.

A must read...

'Life on the Line'
ISBN: 978-0-8254-6304-4
£8.99 WH Smith - [link](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Al Gibson was born in Zimbabwe in 1962 where he grew up in a Christian home. He had a radical encounter with Jesus Christ at Rhodes University in South Africa in 1983, and a long-term vision was birthed to use creative writing for the extension of the Kingdom of God. After graduating with a Bachelor of Journalism & Media Studies degree, he went to work at one of the country's leading newspapers, The Rand Daily Mail, but his passion was to be involved in Christian publishing.

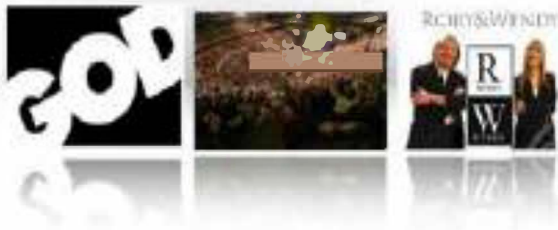
Following a year's ministerial training at Rhema Bible Training Centre, where he felt God had called him as a scribe to chronicle 'modern day Acts of the Apostles', Al was led to start an editing and design business in Johannesburg where he was editor of a number of magazines for 10 years. This included Spirit & Truth Magazine, the official publication of the International Federation of Christian Churches (IFCC).

The dream went international when he moved to the UK in 2001 to join GOD TV, one of the world's fastest-growing faith-based broadcasters. Since his appointment as Central Communications Officer, he has been involved in all communications aspects of the ministry including editing the GOD TV Guide – a monthly publication which was produced in different regions and translated into various languages, with a combined global circulation of 150,000. While on assignment for GOD TV in South Africa in 2006, Alistair met New Zealand evangelists Des & Ros Sinclair and was amazed at their account of how God had moved in their lives. As a journalist he was convinced this was a story that needed to be told and the result was the 20-chapter book – LIFE ON THE LINE.

Al is married to Jeanine and lives in Exeter, England where he continues to serve the ministry

of GOD TV and is privileged to be a part of the awesome vision of Rory & Wendy Alec which aims to win one billion souls through media. He has four children, Stanton, Ashleigh, Stephanie and Reuben and two step children, Layla and Chezni

Al Gibson is currently working on his second novel.



Click logo above to access God TV

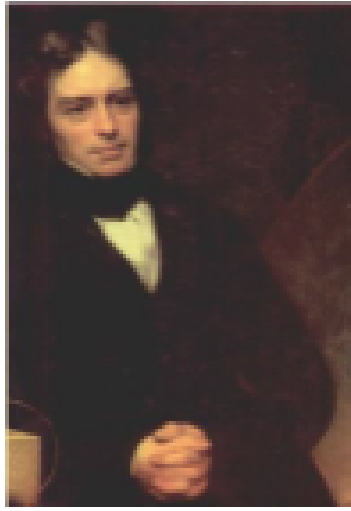


Picture above Dr Des Sinclair & wife Ros who feature in the Book 'Life on the Line'. Click pic to access Official Website...

HEROES

PART I

Michael Faraday



"Since peace is alone in the gift of God; and as it is He who gives it, why should we be afraid? His unspeakable gift in His beloved Son is the ground of no doubtful hope."

Early years

Faraday was born in Newington Butts, which is now part of the London Borough of Southwark; he didn't come from a rich family, however he grew up in a very rich spiritual upbringing, as his father, James, was a member of the Glassite sect of Christianity. The Glassite sect was a Christian sect. They believed in literal interpretation of the scriptures, that everyone should be answerable to Jesus Christ and were very devoted to worship. The family were devout Christians and worshipped at a small chapel four kilometres away.

James Faraday moved his wife and two children to London during the winter of 1790-1791 from Outhgill in Westmorland, where he had been an apprentice to the village blacksmith. Poor health prevented Michael's father, a blacksmith, from working full-time, which caused financial hardship for his family. Michael Faraday, the third child of four having only the most basic of school educations, had to largely educate himself. At fourteen Faraday became apprenticed to a local bookbinder and bookseller George Riebau in Blandford St and, during his seven-year apprenticeship, he read many books, including Isaac Watts' *'The Improvement of the Mind,'* and he enthusiastically implemented the principles and

suggestions that it contained. He developed an interest in science, especially in electricity. In particular, his main inspiration was the *Conversations on Chemistry* by Jane Marcet.

Engaged in Science

At the age of twenty, in 1812, at the end of his apprenticeship, Faraday attended lectures by the famous English chemist Sir Humphry Davy of the Royal Institution and Royal Society, and John Tatum, founder of the City Philosophical Society. William Dance one of the founders of the Royal Philharmonic Society gave Faraday these tickets to see the lecturers. Afterwards, Faraday sent Davy a three hundred page book based on notes taken during the lectures. Davy's reply was immediate, kind, and favourable. When Davy damaged his eyesight in an accident with nitrogen trichloride, he decided to employ Faraday as a secretary. When John Payne, one of the Royal Institution's assistants, was sacked, Sir Humphry Davy was asked to find a replacement. He appointed Faraday as Chemical Assistant at the Royal Institution on 1 March 1813.

In the class-based English society of the time, Faraday was not considered a gentleman due to his poor social status that when Davy went on a long tour to the continent in 1813-15, his valet did not wish to go. Faraday was going as Davy's scientific assistant, and was asked to act as Davy's valet until a replacement could be found in Paris. Faraday was forced to fill the role of valet as well as assistant throughout the trip. Jane Apreece Davy's wife refused to treat Faraday as an equal. She mistreated him by making him travel outside the coach, eat with the servants, etc and generally made Faraday so miserable that he contemplated returning to England alone and giving up science altogether. However regardless of the discrimination he was facing the trip did, however, give him access to the European scientific elite and a host of stimulating ideas.

Early Experiments

No matter how hard the trip dented Faraday's confidence he still continued to do science due to the positive experiences he had. When Faraday worked with Davy as an assistant he made a special study and discovered two new chlorides of carbon. This soon led to a mass load of discoveries that would shape our world. He succeeded in liquefying several gases and produced several new kinds of glass intended for optical purposes. A specimen of one of these heavy glasses afterwards became historically important as the substance in which Faraday detected the polarisation of light (*the direction that the light wave is vibrating*) when the glass was placed in

a magnetic field, and also as the substance that was first repelled by the poles of the magnet.

Faraday invented an early form of what was to become the Bunsen burner, which is used almost universally in science laboratories as a convenient source of heat. He worked extensively in the field of chemistry, discovering chemical substances such as benzene (*which is used in rubbers, lubricants, dyes, detergents, drugs, explosives, napalm, and pesticides.*) among other things, and liquefying gases such as chlorine. He also discovered the laws of electrolysis and popularised terminology such as anode, cathode, electrode, and ion, terms largely created by William Whewell. Faraday is best known for his work with electricity and magnetism. The first experiment that he recorded was the construction of a voltaic pile with seven halfpence pieces, stacked together with seven disks of sheet zinc, and six pieces of paper moistened with salt water. With this pile he decomposed sulphate of magnesia

Religious Beliefs

However regardless of his scientific mindset Faraday was a devout Christian as evidenced in his upbringing with his father who was a member of the Glassite sect. Well after his marriage, he served as Deacon and two terms as an Elder in the meeting house of his youth. His church was located at Paul's Alley in the Barbican. This meeting house relocated in 1862 to Barnsbury Grove, Islington. This North London location is where Faraday served the final two years of his second term as Elder prior to his resignation from that post. According to many biographers Faraday who was a member of the Sandermanian Church and was a very devoted Christian that they state that *"a strong sense of the unity of God and nature pervaded Faraday's life and work."* However, he kept his science and his religion separate, holding that *God was not knowable through science.* Faraday married Sarah Barnard (1800–1879) on 12 June 1821, although they would never have children. They met through their families at the Sandemanian church. He confessed his faith to the Sandemanian congregation the month after he married.



3-in-1 The Man's Voice NEEDS YOU!

**Due to expansion we are looking for male writers
for our new E-zine 3-in-1 The Man's Voice**

**Are you involved in Men's Ministry?
Are you interested in writing about men's
issues?
Are you involved in men's youth ministry?**

**Contact Editor-in-Chief Dave Chenoweth for
more details TODAY!**

E-mail: dchenoweth@3in1publishing.co.uk

FIRE STORM



Mark Oakes
UK Director
CfaN

IT'S TIME TO TALK POSITIVELY!

Why is it that many Christians dwell and live in the realm of negativity. I've been thinking about this over the Christmas period and into this new year of 2011. Is it just me or do you often find yourself surrounded by Christian brothers and sisters who are keen to spout off about something and someone else? It can often be our churches, our pastors, our elders and leaders, the style of our churches; the way someone does something or doesn't do it... the list goes on and on!

It is often difficult to make a move in the right direction sometimes either positively or negatively. Sometimes I want to join the banter and add my 'pennies-worth' to the flow of conversation other times I want to grab that person by the scruff of the neck and give them a good shaking! (Not that I ever would do that might I add!) but what I have learnt is that by saying nothing can be badly misinterpreted and often when you are saying nothing, then agreement with the persons views and mindset is quite often the case – well at least that's what they go away thinking – thus you've added fuel to their fire and argument which they want recognition of being right in.

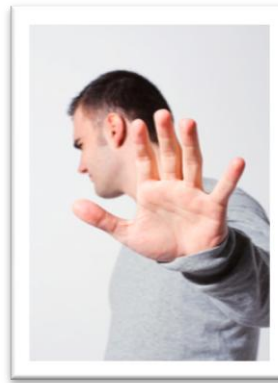
Over time I've been caught in such similar discussions that have really little value except to tear down and destroy. The bible teaches us the exact opposite to this and says 'Build one another up' – 1 Thes 5.

We have to learn to look at things a little more objectively. We really need to know and understand the heart of the matters that often turn up in these kinds of conversations. We have to understand and know the people who may be being criticised and put ourselves in their shoes.

If we're really to understand God and if we are being transformed into his image then we really need to understand this characteristic of him which was displayed to Moses when he took the stone tables up the mountain. Ex 34v6 and he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness!"

God's compassion and grace, his love and faithfulness – 4 amazing characteristics of who he is! Surely each one of those could help us a little. What is it to show compassion and grace? What would it be like to show love to those who may be critical of others. How can we be faithful to those who are being criticised and to the person pointing the finger?

The characteristic that I left out there that I want to explore a little bit more is the one which says 'Slow to anger'. It's something I have learned a little. To me it is the first step. The first one to tackle, understand and get to grips with. When we can understand how to be 'slow to anger' we often can step easily into the areas of compassion, love and grace.



You see if you get angered by something, you can't always think straight. People act more irrationally when they are angry. I've often said in my mind, "I'm not going to get angry about this before I know all the facts and understood the reasons why it is like this." Quite often then as I've taken a step back and looked I've learned so much about myself and others.

This 'Slow to Anger' approach can be a first line of defence! Like a shield against that tongue of fire that you can read about in James 3. How we can understand from that passage how the words we speak can bring people down and destroy rather than build and edify.

We have a choice of what we do with our tongues! "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech." 1 Peter 3v10

It's very easy to get angered about something when the full facts aren't presented or the truth has been watered down or misrepresented. Don't allow your emotions and feelings to be fuel on the fire of something that's burning for the wrong reasons!

There have been times where the truth is that I've agreed with some of the things that have been said, have supported

the arguments that have been presented and allowed anger to build. At that point though I've discovered the other areas can easily override negativity! Sometimes you have to let grace abound. We have to ask of course if the argument of the person we're dealing with is right or wrong. What's the truth of the matter? We measure against the word of God. Not many can do this on the spot so of course we need to take time to think about some of the implications. The next step is being at the stage where you can turn a criticism around and into a positive and help that person see the good things in why something is being done in a particular way.

Especially in the area of leadership! There are many people who are tearing down leadership. Of course we've seen leadership in our churches often in bad press when at the end of day we're all human – but there are many good leaders out there who want to lead positively, see change, growth, good teaching, discipleship and all the rest.

This is where the heart of a true servant can eclipse all of this. Sometimes a leader will get things wrong. Take a wrong direction. Make a mistake. But we have to know their hearts and intentions. We have to understand that they are balancing a much bigger picture than we can see. Give them a break and let them get on with the job! (Of course if the issues are much more serious they have to be addressed – I'm not talking about morality here, but smaller issues)

There are times to speak out. There are times to ask questions, to correct or to share what's on our minds. But the right way of doing this is by going to the person we take issue with. This has been the very answer that I've given to more and more people in recent years when it comes to this stuff. "I'm really sorry but I don't agree with what you are saying... Can I suggest the best thing is that you go and speak to them yourself about it..." or "It's actually not how you see it and I'm sure if you go and chat with them, you'll understand why".

If the enemy is going to attack us in any area of course he will try and cause us to rise against each other and tear one another down. God in our lives, in our characteristics and approach is the weapon against Him!

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STORMS IN AFRICA

ROS SINCLAIR

ZIMBABWE – I LOVE YOU SO

Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe
How I love you my precious child
I'm always there when you need me
For "I AM" your true reviving source!
Don't be worried about the snares of life
For the keys are in MY hands
I feel your pain, and I see every tear
Remember the blood of my nail pierced hands

Come forth to me my child
Hold tight and don't let go
I will never leave or forsake you
Because I love you so
Because I love you so

It was my blood that was shed
So that you my child would be free
Don't forsake me Zimbabwe
Just because of what you see
But look to me Zimbabwe
Spend time to hold my hand
You will find your security
You will find freedom and you will find a friend

My blood ever flows for you my child
For you – my blood ever flows



A Voice in the Wilderness

STEVE NORMAN

UK Director Ratanak

A COMPLETE GOSPEL

He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 22:16)

Over the beginning of this year I was recommended a book to add to the 'must read' pile - 'The Hole in Our Gospel' by Rich Stearns. As I find myself at the midway point I am repeatedly challenged, continually shocked and often broken.

During the first twenty something years of my Christian life I busied myself for God – or so I thought. I was a regular attendee at services, involved in leadership, helping where I could and so on. I believed I was living life to the full and serving my God to the very best of my ability. It wasn't without its blips here and there and there were occasions when the path was somewhat bumpy – but onwards I went! Nearly three years ago that changed dramatically when God faced me with the horrors of child sexual exploitation in Cambodia and the wider world. I didn't realise then that there are two-million young children around our world being sold for sex to predators who seek to satisfy their cravings through this avenue. This issue is not confined to countries thousands of miles away to children who we will never see and meet. It is happening under our noses to children in our own nations.

For me this represented a major paradigm shift in the way I approached my faith. No longer did church services present the complete picture. I begin to realise that my life was only partially fulfilling the call that God places on each and every one of us. We spend way too much time looking to God for direction of what to do and where to go. Don't get me wrong on this matter – I wholly recognise the need to seek God in all things – but sometimes we have just got to get busy.

As I read Scripture now I see that it is littered with directions about feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, providing shelter for the homeless and speaking up for those who have no voice. God has already spoken to us countless times through his Word and now it's a time to act. I like Pastor Bill Wilson's posture on this when he says 'The need is the call'.

All we need to do is take a look across the street, turn on the news or pick up a book to see the often burning needs of others around the globe for which Christ died. One person every 4 seconds dies because they have no clean water, one every 30 seconds of malaria, two million die of TB yearly – and so it goes on. Each of these is preventable.

I am faced with the question, "Are you willing to be open to Gods will in your life?" A question we could answer without thinking – but that's what I'm asking you to do. Think this through before you answer. Are you willing to lay it all down and follow Gods will? Am I?

Two-million children violated many times every day. It's easy to lose sight of this a mountain too hard to climb. It is also easy to get back to our everyday lives and forget that this is going on. These faceless and nameless children

who we will never know are not in our constant field of vision and subsequently are easily forgotten. Children like Champei who in one instance was indebted to her employer for \$6 — an amount that ultimately kept her captive for two years, forced into prostitution, facing sexual exploitation by up to 10 men each night. Eventually, a police raid on the brothel set her free, only to put her on the street alone, yet again.

With nowhere to go, she was trafficked again and forced to work in yet another brothel. But three things are certain:

- Children like Champei represent individuals created in the image of God and loved by Him
- Each situation has a solution
- Each one of us has a responsibility and can make a significant difference.
- WILL YOU?

JOIN WITH US.



For further information on how to become a valued co-worker please

email ratanakuk@ratanak.org



Cecilia - The Pathway

The Pathway

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Cecelia Chiwaka

A couple of weeks ago, I was in my son's bedroom praying about some difficulties that I had been having. I was kneeling on the carpeted floor but my knees soon got tired so I sat back on my heels to give them a rest. I noticed that the wooden ledge on the window was chipped quite badly underneath. I hadn't noticed this whilst on my knees but dropping down a little made this quite visible. The Lord spoke to me and said sometimes it is good to change tact or behaviours because we notice things that we have not noticed before. We can notice problems, hindrances or even revelation from looking things at a different angle. (On a side note, it is interesting that the lower I got, the more I noticed the chipping. Sometimes we need to humble ourselves before God so that He can lift us up). For the last few days, the Holy Spirit kept leading me to the scripture in Isaiah 42:18 20 which reads:

"Hear you deaf, look you blind who do not see... You have seen many things but pay no attention, your ears are open but you do not listen."

Many of you know that sometimes we pray and pray about our problems, but God doesn't seem to answer. This incident showed me that in some instances; maybe we need to look at things differently. We can be gazing straight ahead and not see anything. This is especially true when we worry. Worry clouds not only our judgment but from seeing the true glory of God. I remember a time when my husband and I decided to migrate from Zimbabwe to Europe. We did not have much money, but we talked about the move a lot and I knew that it was

God's wish. One day, the Lord reminded me that I had many wedding presents at the top of my cupboard that I had never even opened. The Holy Spirit told me to sell them and that is what I did and six months later, I was in Northern Ireland. I was blind and I needed the revelation of Jesus to see what was right before me.

You have all heard the expression "new level, new devil." When I dropped down on my heels, I saw a problem that needed to be dealt with. If we humble ourselves and walk in righteousness, the enemy will bring about a new problem, but we thank God for His grace to see us through. He shows us the chips before things really crack up and tumble all around us. He reveals things that are hidden from our sight, but not from His.

A child that is misbehaving may be a sign of deeper problems. We may be worried about the child losing his way, but God may be pointing out things that need to be dealt with beneath the exterior. Trouble at work may cause stress, but it may be God pointing you to a different career that will lead you to walking in your destiny. I usually pray and read the word in the bath or in the sitting room, but this time, I was in my son's bed room. Closing word? Get out of your comfort zone and you will discover things that could change your life forever. It may mean bigger battles, but that just means bigger triumphs.

God bless you abundantly.

**CHECK OUT MY BLOG AT
WWW.WAITTOGO.BLOGSPOT.COM**

